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NOTES AND QUERIES.

“MUSKIE.” — The following item, originally from the “Milwaukee Sentinel,” is interesting as containing the word *muskie* for “muskalonge.” In the region of Lake Ontario a familiar abbreviation of the same word is *longe* or *lunge*. This word of Algonkian Indian derivation thus appears in American English in both a decapitated and decaudated form. The item was reprinted in the “Evening Post” (Worcester) for January 11, 1907: —

“There are three remarkable chains of lakes in northern Minnesota, among the headwaters of the Mississippi,” said D. B. Stark of St. Paul. “These are known respectively as the Man Trap, Crow’s Wing, and Fish Hook chains, and there are about thirty lakes in the three chains. In some places they come so close together that lakes of all three chains will be within half a mile of each other, but there is the widest possible difference in them.

“The Man Trap chain is almost fifty feet higher than either of the two other chains and the eleven lakes which comprise it have no inlet or outlet to any other waters. Still the lake is teeming with muskalonge and there are no other varieties of fish in any of the lakes. The waters are clear and cold at all seasons and the fish are unusually game.

“The other two chains teem with game fish, but in no instance has a muskalonge ever been caught in either. Pickerel are so plentiful that they drive the bass away from all bait, and it is almost impossible to catch bass, although there are some fine ones in both chains. There has never been a satisfactory explanation of the presence of muskalonge only in one chain, and every other game fish common to the region in other lakes without the muskies.”

“BARGE” (vol. xix, p. 349). — The following appeared in the “Boston Herald” for November 11, 1906: —

“CLEOPATRA’S BARGE.”

“When found, make a note of.” — CAPT. CUTTLE.

To the Editor of The Herald:

Now comes a man, more of an “old-timer” than myself, whose knowledge and memory concerning “Cleopatra’s barge” are more close, full, and exact than my own, and I hope the readers of The Herald will be pleased if I transmit the interesting additional particulars. It seems the “barge” was larger than I dared to say. It was the pride of the grammar schools to have had a sleigh ride in “Cleopatra’s barge.” From all this we may see what an impression that wonderful “barge” made; then the seaside hotels caught up the idea, and now any old picnic wagon takes the fine name.

Since writing the above, David Pingree, Esq., of Wenham Depot, in a call, tells me that Salem also in his boyhood had a similar barge, made from a boat, which would hold 50 boys.

WILL C. WOOD, 6 Pinckney Street.

BOSTON, Nov. 9, 1906.

Mr. Will C. Wood — Dear Sir: I have read your letter on the origin of the word “barge,” which appeared in The Boston Herald, and I can help

you out a little about the same. "Cleopatra's barge" was a boat sleigh, the largest one in Boston, owned by Mr. John P. Barnard, who had a stable at 23 Myrtle Street. The sleigh was never owned by an omnibus company. I was born and lived for 26 years at 39 Pinckney Street, and knew Mr. Barnard very well, so what I have written you I know to be the exact facts.

GARDNER H. WILLIAMS.

ASHBURNHAM, MASS. (Marlboro Junction).

It was used by him as late as 1888, the year I think he died. The body of the sleigh was originally a boat, and seated about 40 people when put on runners. It was never used on wheels. The sleigh was drawn by eight horses, with the driver standing in a large swan, which was built, of course, at the bow of the boat. I have ridden in the sleigh a number of times, and remember exactly how it looked.

G. H. W.

MARYLAND SUPERSTITIONS.—The following account of popular superstitions in Washington County, Md., appeared in the "Worcester Evening Post" of April 12, 1907: —

"From the researches of scientists upon matters transcending the normal to the quaint and curious signs and superstitions frequently believed by quiet mountain and valley folk is a far cry, yet both have interesting features, and along this line are the curious beliefs still prevailing in some parts of Washington County, Md., says the 'Baltimore Sun.'

"Our colored man's daughter was in the yard one day killing a chicken. An Alsatian came in and asked if she knew 'how to kill a chicken so it would not flutter.' Upon her replying in the negative, he took the axe, first making a cross on the ground, and chopping off the head, laid the chicken on the spot with the cross, and the fowl certainly did not flutter. He said anybody could do this, but I notice neither of my helpers will try it, although I have begged them to. I think they are afraid it will work. The Alsatian told the girl she could reveal the charm to a man, but if she communicated it to a woman neither of them could work it — a man may tell a woman or vice versa. Later on a clergyman's wife told me the Alsatian had shown her girl the same charm. I have positive knowledge of this man having been sent for to cure and also to 'draw out fire' where people had been burned.

"My first personal encounter with the mysterious was about eight years ago, when after a prolonged illness my hair started to fall out alarmingly. Some one said sage tea and alcohol. My neighbor is the possessor of a luxuriant sage bush. Of her I begged some sage and made the decoction, whose virtues, by the way, I can indorse. Some time afterward I was horrified to learn that if at any time that particular sage bush should die my hair would all fall out. Of course I am not superstitious, but each succeeding spring I look to see if the sage is budding.

"On another occasion my little daughter, who had been spending the day with a school friend on a nearby farm, told me that while there one of the hens had crowed and that the fowl had forthwith been killed, the reason being that a death in the immediate family would result if the hen continued alive. Mentioning this occurrence to a lady, she informed me it was only what she would have done under like circumstances, and told me her mother had had a little sister who was the proud possessor of a pet hen. One day, while the child was seated in a rocking-chair, the fowl hopped in her lap and crowed.